



WORCESTER COUNTY 2001 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Worcester County is the easternmost county on Maryland's Eastern Shore and the only one bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The 2001 population was 46,543, which increases dramatically during the summer tourist season. The economy of the county is, to a large percent, dependent upon the agriculture industry. The county covers an area of 302,879 acres of which 37 percent or 111,835 acres is classified as farmland. By far the greatest contributor to agriculture is the poultry industry. Worcester county accounts for about 20 percent of the broiler and other meat type chickens sold in the state.

Worcester County is one of the youngest counties in the state, but it does have quite a few historical locations within its boundaries, one of which is the Nassawango Iron Furnace, located just west of Snow Hill.

The Pocomoke River, which has been officially identified as a "scenic river", winds its way through the county and is bordered by Bald Cypress Swamps, the northernmost cypress swamp along the Atlantic coast.

The county also can claim one of the most important summer resort areas on the east coast with Ocean City bordering the Atlantic Ocean. With the wide usage of the resort, population increases greatly during the summer months.

WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1999	Bu.	32,500	109.2	3,549,800
	2000		34,100	165.5	5,644,000
	2001		36,600	147.4	5,395,000
Corn for Silage	1999	Tons.	*	*	*
	2000		*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
Soybeans	1999	Bu.	41,700	34.2	1,427,800
	2000		47,000	45.2	2,123,000
	2001		39,900	42.0	1,676,000
Wheat	1999	Bu.	12,300	56.8	698,900
	2000		11,100	68.4	759,700
	2001		10,000	62.0	620,000
Hay	1999	Tons.	1,100	3.0	3,300
	2000		1,200	2.5	3,000
	2001				
Barley	1999	Bu.	*	*	*
	2000		*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 2001

Corn	3	Oats	3
Wheat	7	Barley	3
Hay	17	Soybeans	6

Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹

Cattle	21
Hogs	5
Sheep	21
Milk Cows	3

WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Farm Numbers & Size ¹</i>	1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms	631	474	415
Average Size (acres)	196	227	269
Land in Farms (acres)	123,406	107,519	111,835

<i>Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹</i>	1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory Jan. 1	2,642	2,059	1,762
Hog Inventory Dec. 1	28,172	30,133	6,094
Sheep Inventory Jan. 1	16	²	42

<i>Value of Sales ¹</i>	1987	1992	1997
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----- *Thousand Dollars* -----

All Products	122,048	131,302	147,553
Crops	15,902	18,920	24,492
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	106,147	112,382	123,060

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 2001

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	45.9	35.2	2.15	3.80
February	52.2	37.3	2.72	3.61
March	53.9	45.6	5.62	4.30
April	69.3	53.9	3.02	3.21
May	76.4	63.5	2.86	3.52
June	84.4	71.9	5.13	3.43
July	73.8	75.8	5.44	4.10
August	73.7	74.7	4.64	5.37
September	67.9	68.7	3.87	3.29
October	59.0	57.9	.01	3.24
November	45.4	49.1	1.80	3.22
December	33.4	39.8	2.27	3.44
Annual	56.6	56.1	44.95	44.53

Number frost free days for 2001 194
Normal frost free days 1961-1990 187
Highest temperature 06-12-01 95
Lowest temperature 12-26-01 6

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*Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
and the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.*